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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,640	07/15/2003	Stephan Karl Barsun	200209611-1	1700

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EXAMINER

CHANG, YEAN HSI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/620,640

Applicant(s)

BARSUN ET AL.

Examiner

Yean-Hsi Chang

Art Unit

2835

SM

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dang et al. (US 5,757,594).

Dang teaches a system (fig. 1) for preventing a plurality of electronic devices (media 24) from being pulled out of an equipment rack (40) simultaneously, said system comprising: a sensor module (IR sensor 156) for detecting when a first electronic device (24, fig. 8) coupled to said equipment rack is being slid out of said equipment rack, a locking module (70 controlled by 194) for preventing a second electronic device (next to 24, fig. 8) coupled to said equipment rack from being slid out of said equipment rack, and an electronic control module (16) coupled to said sensor module and said locking module (see figs. 9 and 10) (claims 8-9 and 15-16); wherein said sensor module is selected from an optical sensor, a proximity sensor, a mechanical switch, a mechanical sensor, an electro-mechanical sensor, an ultrasonic sensor, a hall-effect sensor, and a Linear Variable Differential Transformer (LVDT) (see col. 10, lines 16-19) (claims

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10 and 17); wherein said locking module is selected from a solenoid, an electro-mechanical device, a solenoid capable of engaging and disengaging a pin or a latch, an electric motor capable of engaging and disengaging a pin or a latch, solid state circuitry, and a magnetic latch (see col. 6, line 67 through col. 7, line 2) (claims 11 and 18); wherein said electronic control module is selected from a processor, a controller, a state machine, and a microprocessor (see col. 5, lines 18-20) (claims 12 and 19); wherein said sensor module also for detecting when said first electronic device has been slid back into said equipment rack (see col. 10, lines 16-19) (claim 13); wherein said electronic control module controls said locking module based on electronic information received from said sensor module (claims 14 and 20); and a method for preventing a plurality of electronic devices from being pulled out of an equipment rack simultaneously being disclosed in the specification (sensors coupled to slide rails shown in fig. 6) (claims 1-7).

### ***Correspondence***

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yean-Hsi Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-2038. The examiner can normally be reached on 07:30 - 16:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Art Unit phone number is (571) 272-2800, ext. 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3431

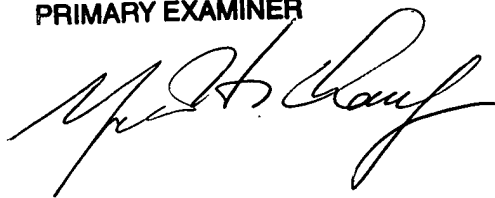
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for regular communications and for After Final communications. There are RightFax numbers and provide the fax sender with an auto-reply fax verifying receipt by the USPTO: Before-Final (703-872-9318) and After-Final (703-872-9319).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-8558.

Yean-Hsi Chang  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 2835  
February 24, 2005

**YEAN-HSI CHANG**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Y-H Chang', written in a cursive style.